

Millers Would Adjust Pact With Farmers

They Propose That Agreement Made for \$2.26 a Bushel Wheat Be Cancelled

Cost of Living Is Cited

Argument Is Made Government Eventually Will Have to Free Markets to Trade

By Theodore M. Knappen

New York Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Western millers and elevator men who have been in Washington conferring with members of Congress in regard to the problem of carrying out the contract the government has made with the farmers of America to pay them \$2.26 a bushel, Chicago basis, for their wheat, until June 1, 1920, have made the unique suggestion that this contract be cancelled and settled in a manner comparable to the handling of war-product contracts of all kinds.

The principal argument in favor of such a procedure is that since the government ultimately will have to free the markets, the sooner it does so the better, for if the United States markets are kept on an artificial basis for eighteen months yet, the foreign markets for American flour will be lost and the cost of living likely will be twice as high, so far as bread is concerned, as the real value of wheat would justify.

Farmers to Decide

The manner of settlement with the farmers, since individual adjustments with two or three millions of wheat raisers are impossible, is for Congress to pass an act now appropriating a billion dollars or whatever sum may be necessary, and providing that it shall be paid out to the wheat producers as they gather crops at a fixed price of \$1 or 75 cents a bushel, or whatever price may be agreed upon as a fair advance settlement of their claim under the Lever act, leaving them to their wheat to sell for whatever it may bring in an open market. By this settlement the farmers would get the settlement price as soon as their grain was threshed, and would have their actual wheat left for disposition as they might please. Should the open market, which would be reestablished on the passage of the proposed act, fall to 75 cents the farmers would lose 25 cents a bushel as compared with what the Lever bill promised them. On the other hand if the market price should be \$1.50, they would make 24 cents more.

The argument for the farmers to accept such legislation in good spirit is that the time has come to clean up all the economic debris of the war as soon as possible, and that they should be prepared to let the government, by accepting a compromise, which might mean some loss of prospective profits to them and that might, on the other hand, increase their profits, and that would mean that the masses of their fellow countrymen would be relieved of paying two prices for flour and bread for more than a year after the war is over, and in spite of the fact that the world will have immense surpluses of wheat.

System of Buying

If this plan is not followed, the government will have to build up an elaborate system for buying and handling the actual wheat as it is delivered from the farmers, between June 1, 1919, and June 1, 1920. It will have also to determine whether it is going to pass the difference in price between the fixed price and the world market price on to the consumers, or whether it will absorb the loss itself. To do the former it will be necessary to exclude foreign wheat from the government market, while the government would remain the complication that the government will find itself at the end of many hundreds of millions of bushels of wheat, which it will have eventually to sell at what it can get for it.

As to the extent of the surplus, the millers point out that on the basis of the winter wheat average and the prospects for a record breaking spring wheat acreage, the 1919 wheat crop of the country may amount to 1,500,000,000 bushels and probably will be 1,250,000,000. The latter figures would leave a surplus of about 625,000,000 bushels over the maximum home consumption.

Embargo Contingent

If the government buys all the wheat in order to carry out its contract, as it may have to do, in the event of a falling world market, it will have to confront a turnover amounting to more than \$2,500,000,000.

The end of the present session of Congress draws near and neither the food administration nor the Agricultural Department has submitted even an idea to Congress as to how this gigantic task is to be faced. The food administration grain corporation goes out of business as soon as peace is declared and in anticipation thereof is now laying its plans to clean up by June 1, the beginning of the new crop year.

Rising winds and threatening storm

stopped the first flight, November 24, although sufficient fuel and oil remained for eight more hours.

During the first ten hours the ship was lightened 300 pounds by consumption of gasoline. Her crew brought her down to within fifty feet of the sea and with bucket and line took enough water to restore her proper balance.

Sittenberg Gets Life Term For Perjury in Baksa Case

Convict Who Swore He Killed Mrs. Hamel First to Get Such Sentence for Minor Crime

For the first time in the history of New York a man will be sent to prison to-morrow for a life term for committing a crime other than murder. The convict is Leo Sittenberg, alias James F. Regan, alias James Burns, convicted last Monday of perjury, consisting of false testimony when he was called as a witness in defence of Elizabeth Baksa, nineteen years old, who swore that he and "a pal" murdered Mrs. Helen Hamel last February.

When he was convicted Sittenberg, in the justice of the peace court, District Attorney Alfred J. Talley, and refused to reply to Clerk William Penney when his pedigree was to be taken.

Sittenberg, who is twenty-eight years old, has been convicted of three felonies and has served one year of a ten-year sentence for burglary. The New York statutes make it mandatory to impose a life term on any person who has heretofore been convicted three times of a felony.

Deckhand Asserts His Home Expenses Are \$1,778 a Year

Testifies Before War Board at Harbor Wage Hearing; Defence Council Official Wants Profiteers Jailed

New York workers, by intensive straining, can live on \$1,800 a year, but not less, according to one expert.

As an authority on the cost of living, Ben Howe, secretary of the Community Council for Defence, testified yesterday before the sub-section of the War Labor Board which is taking evidence in the controversy between the harbor boat owners and their employees regarding the demand of the employees for an increase in wages and an eight-hour day.

Mr. Howe, who was called by Frank P. Walsh, counsel for the unions, testified that he had made a study for several months of the cost of living and attributed its flight to freight charges, cartage, cost of containers, increase in harbor costs, profiteering brokers and sabotage by manufacturers.

When the witness was asked what he meant by profiteering brokers he told of a transaction in which a shipment of cotton was sold sixteen times before it finally reached the consumer.

"What would you recommend as a remedy for such a condition?" he was asked by Paul Bonynge, counsel for the owners.

"Take a lot of these very smooth gentlemen and send them to the penitentiary," he replied. "That would be one way."

Says It Is Hardheaded Fact

After Mr. Howe had declared that the purchasing power of a dollar was less than 33 cents and had declared a man of family could not live on less than \$1,800 a year, Mr. Bonynge said: "This sounds like arrant socialism." The lawyer also hinted that the witness was a theorist.

"It is not a theory," Howe replied. "It is an upstanding, hardheaded fact that a man cannot get enough to eat, clothes to wear and keep his family on less than \$1,800 a year in New York City."

Mr. Howe added that policemen and postmen were underpaid and that there should be no difference between the compensation given a married and single man, providing both did the same work.

Captain Quotes Towing Prices

An affidavit from Captain John Ambrose, of the tug Joseph H. Moran, owned by the Moran Towing Company, was offered in evidence. It averred that an order from his employers directed him to "try and take water on their time and not mine." The "their," he said, was the government, for which the company was doing some work at that time.

Captain William H. Maher was recalled as a witness and asked about the prices of towing in the harbor. He said that in 1915 the Moran Towing Company was towing scoops from Port Liberty to sea for \$32 and now charged from \$125 to \$150 for the same work. He didn't know whether the distance of the tow was greater at this time.

The meeting was adjourned to meet again to-morrow.

Says Pork Prices Are Up 30 Per Cent Because of Fixing

Petition of the Produce Exchange Members Appeals to Gregory to End Activities of Arbitrary Regulators

Further arbitrary fixing of prices for hogs and hog products by any government agency is opposed in a petition addressed to the United States Attorney General which was circulated yesterday among members of the New York Produce Exchange.

Attention of Attorney General Gregory is called to the fact that were it not for activities of the hog price fixing committee of the food administration the market price of pork probably would be reduced 30 or 40 per cent. It is said that even the chairman of this committee has admitted that but for the action of the food administration the price of pork would come down from 17½ cents, the fixed price, to 10 or 12 cents a pound. The petition says:

"As members of the New York Produce Exchange, vitally interested in handling the products of agriculture, we petition you to take such action as will prevent any further arbitrary price fixing of hogs, and consequently of hog products, by a so-called hog price fixing committee, which as far as we can learn is acting without legal status."

Price Fixing Long Continued

"Price fixing by this committee has been in operation for several months. As a war measure we would have nothing to say, but would loyally support any action of the government for increasing the supply of food. It is now no longer a war measure, and such arbitrary action should be stopped. Everett C. Brown, chairman of the hog price fixing committee, has openly said that were it not for the activities of his committee hogs would now be selling at from 10 to 12 cents a pound instead of 17½ cents a pound, the price arbitrarily fixed by his committee."

"What end in view the committee has in holding the price at from 5 to 7 cents a pound above the normal price, based on supply and demand, we do not know, but we do know that the arbitrary action of this committee is placing a heavy burden on the long-suffering consumers."

"As a war measure, well and good, but in peace the old law of supply and demand can fix prices better than any government bureau, whose usefulness is now at an end and whose activities, if they cannot be entirely suppressed, should be held down to the strict letter of the law."

Fight Begun in Chicago

The fight against government regulation of pork prices came to a head with the action of the Chicago Board of Trade, which last Friday forwarded a similar protest to the authorities at Washington. Prior to that a committee of members of the New York Produce Exchange had gone to Washington with the object of finding out why members of the exchange did not receive orders on offerings made to the food administration on pork products, notwithstanding the fact that they were ready to sell at less than the fixed price. The committee was told that the food administration would give orders to producers only.

The members of the New York Produce Exchange consequently hold the government responsible for keeping the cost of foodstuffs high, and the law of supply and demand would warrant.

Some see in the government's action in regard to hog prices an effort to stimulate production of pork products.

Effect Already Felt

The effect of the continuance of price fixing has already been felt in the local market, for British buyers have practically disappeared, and it is not expected that they will be in the market for many weeks, perhaps months. According to a recent cablegram received from Liverpool the British Food Ministry had stocks on hand and on order amounting to 168,000 tons of meat and 46,000 tons of lard, which were estimated to be sufficient to provide for consumption for sixteen months. The ministry further stated that it did not intend to make further purchases and would not permit private shipment until present stocks had been materially reduced.

The effort of Columbia University graduates to raise \$200,000 to meet the institution's war deficit is on and under way, report Tuesday and Friday at Columbia University. The money raising organization reaches on every state and every country.

The Phonograph Records Recruiting Corps, of 421 Madison Avenue, needs ten phonograph records to meet the needs of the war. The records are being received from soldiers in New York hospitals.

One man was slightly hurt in a crash, to get out of a car of a Second Avenue elevated train which caught fire from a short circuit at Fifty-ninth Street. Employees extinguished the fire at the Fifty-ninth Street station.

The Knights of Columbus are distributing thousands of miniature books, each containing a story by a famous author, to be used on returning transports. Each book has about thirty-five pages, two inches by one and a half.

The American Defense Society will tender a dinner this evening at the Waldorf-Astoria to James M. Beck, who will speak on the problems of the peace conference.

Rev. Dr. William T. Manning, of Trinity, will hold a brief, Roosevelt memorial service at the home of Mrs. John H. Hammond, 2 East Ninety-first Street, this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Arthur Elliot Sprout will speak on "Russia as I Saw It" to-morrow evening at the National Arts Club. Mr. Sprout was in Russia when the revolution started.

The latest charge against Margaret Sanger and her aid, Kate Manser, of circulating obscene matter through the "Birth Control Review," was dismissed yesterday by Justice Eilerson.

John Forrest, an amiable vagabond arrested for loitering, tried to convince Magistrate Reynolds in Brooklyn that it was his first offense. The police proved forty-three former convictions against him, and five minutes later John was on his way to serve six months on his forty-fourth.

The police are looking for the mother of a blue-eyed girl of two years, dressed all in blue, who was found lonely, but cheerful, at the entrance of 641 Tenth Avenue. She is in the care of the Children's Society.

The body of a man believed to be F. A. Cross, of Boston, was found in a kneeling posture beside his bed in a stateroom of the Fall River boat Priscilla on its arrival in New York. He had killed himself with a revolver.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians of New York County has requested President Wilson by cable to "give full consideration to Ireland's claim to self-determination."

Major Albert D. Smith and the other aviators who flew recently from San Diego, Cal., to Mexico, expect to start their return trip by air Wednesday or Thursday, if the weather is favorable.

About forty automobiles were destroyed in a fire which burned two garages at N. 1st St., N. 4.

End of Hygiene Board Protested by Woman's Council

Mass Meeting of Civic Bodies Called by the Municipal League to Act on Order of Commissioner Copeland

The Council of Women's Organizations, representing 400 New York City organizations of women, made public yesterday through Mrs. Charles C. Rumsey, chairman, and Mrs. Willard Straight, first vice-chairman, the following resolution condemning what was termed "the demobilization of the Municipal Bureau of Industrial Hygiene":

"Whereas, The vast increase in

diversified industry during the war calls for correspondingly greater municipal provision for the study and application of industrial hygiene in New York City, the greatest centre of industry in the western hemisphere; and

"Resolved, That the Council of Women's Organizations urge upon the Mayor and the Commissioner of Health the restoration of the City Bureau of Industrial Hygiene with Dr. Harris at its head; and

"Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to Mayor Hylan, to Commissioner Copeland, and to the Press."

The Women's Municipal League has called a joint meeting of all civic bodies for Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock in the ballroom of the Murray Hill Hotel, Fourth Street and Park Avenue, to protest Health Commissioner Copeland's action.

Heney Says Packers Sought Card Index On Congressmen

Plan for Joint Bureau at Washington to Scrutinize Legislation Is Disclosed; Campaign Gifts Charged

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Francis J. Heney, counsel for the Federal Trade Commission in its meat packing inquiry, told the Senate Agriculture Committee to-day of plans which he said the packers had discussed for establishing a joint office in Washington, with a card index on Congressmen and their attitude toward legislation. He said the scheme was outlined by

John Eversman, former secretary of the National Republican Congressional Committee, and included arrangements for contributions to the packers for congressional campaigns.

Letterheads of the Republican committee, Mr. Heney said, were used by Eversman in corresponding in behalf of the packers. Eversman, he added, was employed as Washington representative of Wilson & Co., Senator Gronna, of North Dakota, stated he understood Mr. Eversman had not been in the employ of the committee for two years.

Advance Information Sought

Referring to sources from which the packers obtained information, Heney said Eversman wrote V. D. Skipworth, vice-president of Wilson & Co., that he had arranged with a representative of "one of the largest press associations," who had the privilege of the House floor, to get advance information on legislation.

After to-day's hearing Mr. Eversman said when the charge that he had arranged with an employee of a press association to get information on legislation was made first a year ago he wrote to the chairman of the standing

committee of correspondents at the Capitol, explaining that he had asked him the numbers and titles of bills pertaining to food after they had been introduced. He said he was told a mountain was being made of a mole hill. The reporter in question was Willis J. O'Brien, who at that time and for a short time afterward was employed by the United Press Association.

Wadsworth's Name Mentioned

Mr. Heney testified also that Senator Wadsworth while Speaker of the lower house of the New York Legislature, in 1909, aided in passing a bill directed by the packers, the effect of which was to prohibit selling coloring matter with white coloring in margarine. He said the packers made butter-colored margarine which had been taxed 10 cents a pound by Federal legislation passed in 1908.

Questioned as to what proofs he had of Senator Wadsworth's activities, Mr. Heney said he had a telegram sent to Senator Wadsworth by an agent of the packers urging him to help in getting the bill out of the Rules Committee. He added that the bill was gotten out of the Rules Committee and passed.



Mme. Florence Easton

The voice recordings of Mme. Florence Easton, prima donna soprano of the Metropolitan Opera Company, will be made exclusively on the Vocalion Record.

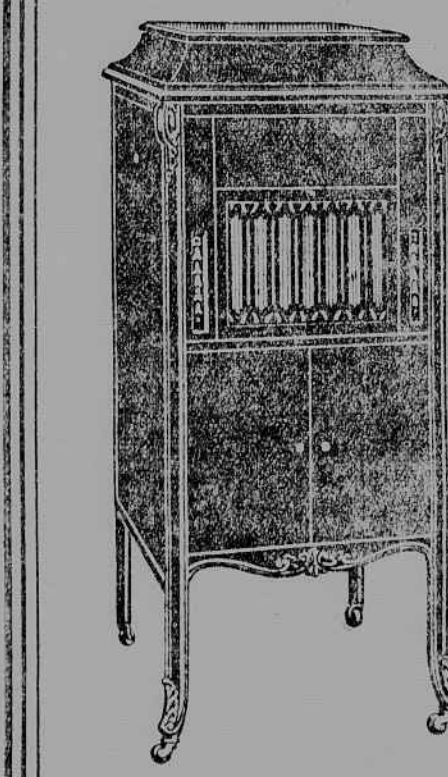
Mme. Easton's European successes have established her position as an artist of distinguished gifts and attainments.

In her numerous appearances at the Metropolitan she has delighted all music lovers with her beautiful voice and rare artistic feeling.

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Style 700, illustrated price \$285. Other conventional models, equipped with Graduo, are priced from \$115 upwards; without Graduo, from \$50.

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When the phonograph was first invented, the possibilities it would ultimately divulge were little dreamed of. In reality, here at last was something for which humanity had waited—the means by which, in time, music in all its many beautiful forms might be enjoyed by all.

Slowly these possibilities have been revealed. The little mechanical novelty—almost a toy—rose to higher uses. The TALKING MACHINE became a MUSIC MACHINE.

Today the phonograph has developed to its ultimate goal. In the Aeolian-Vocalion and new Vocalion Record, phonograph perfection has been achieved. No longer a machine of any kind, the phonograph takes its new position as a true MUSICAL INSTRUMENT. You—music lover—cannot know all the possibilities of the phonograph, until you hear a Vocalion Record played upon the Aeolian-Vocalion.

Put this superb aria—"Un Bel Di" (One Fine Day) from Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" upon the instrument. Listen to Florence Easton's wonderful tones, voice the heart-rending pathos—the pitiful longing of the little deserted Japanese girl.

You have never heard a record like this before; you have never heard a record played like this before.

Gone is the stridency—the slight metallic quality hitherto inseparable from the phonograph. In their place is melody in its loveliest guise; a purer soprano voice—one of the world's famous prima donnas—clear, rich and sweet in all its living, breathing, natural beauty.

The supremacy of the Aeolian-Vocalion is based on substantial, definite features of superiority. The most important of these features are herewith summarized.

Features of the Vocalion

MECHANICAL PERFECTION—The Automatic Stop on the Vocalion is an example of the perfection in mechanical detail characterizing this instrument. Simple, direct and absolutely dependable, this device is the most satisfactory of its kind yet invented.

And The New UNIVERSAL TONE-ARM—This great feature of the Vocalion, is a notable tribute to the skill and resource of the Aeolian staff. It provides the means by which every make of record can be played upon the Vocalion. With the record situation as it is today—with so many different manufacturers making records—this is the only way that all the great artists can be heard. Moreover, so well has this feature been designed that each make of record is played exactly as intended, thus producing from each the best results of which it is capable.

APPEARANCE—In both outline and finish, the regular upright models of the Vocalion establish an entirely new standard of beauty for the phonograph. The beautiful Period Styles, though inexpensive, are the most unusual and artistic phonographs ever displayed.

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